

House of Representatives, Commerce Committee.

RE: HB4287

Let me start by saying that the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights along with all the other affiliated trades of the Michigan Building trades council are a private sector construction service provider. All of our training programs, Safety training programs and Member benefit programs were developed as a response the free market demand for skilled construction tradesman.

Construction owners buy the services we provide, Even in a downturn in the economy, Because of the added value we bring to the table.

The Michigan building & Construction trades can and do compete in a free and open market.

By paying attention to the needs of the construction owner we have developed and instituted the training programs that have resulted in a well trained workforce that meets and in most cases exceeds the construction markets demands.

I would like to close with an analogy.

If Ford Motor company built a car that was economical, fuel efficient, dependable and was reasonably priced, That sold well to both the private and public sector, But GM and Chrysler could not figure out how to do the same would that be an unfair competitive advantage, Would you draft legislation to prevent Ford from building and selling their car, Or legislation to prevent people from purchasing the car.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak to the Committee today.

Nick McCreary

Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters & Millwrights

Programs like MUST, Management and Unions Serving Together, A standardized comprehensive drug and alcohol testing and safety training program that saves the construction owner a tremendous amount by eliminating redundancy in safety training as well as insurance costs by providing a safety trained and drug free work force.

The Helmets to Hardhats program, A nationwide program for our returning armed forces men and women that guarantee's their immediate acceptance into our apprenticeship programs and places them with our contractors so they have a good job when they return from service to our country.

The list of Journeyman enhancement classes that are taught by our collective apprenticeship schools are too numerous to name here today. These courses provide our membership with training in new technology and safety as it applies to their respective trade. Our School currently teaches 36 different courses.

Collectively the Michigan Building and Construction trades unions spend in excess of twenty five million dollars a year on training for our members.